

Message Text

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ACTION STR-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 AGRE-00
CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01
INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05
CIEP-01 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02
FEAE-00 OMB-01 AF-08 ARA-06 NEA-10 OIC-02 /133 W
-----241913Z 026024 /46

P R 241812Z JAN 77

FM USDEL MTN GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2190

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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ACTION STR

H PASS CODEL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, MTN

SUBJ: MAJOR COUNTRY TOUR D'HORIZON

1. SUMMARY: CANADA, EC AND JAPAN QUESTION WHETHER U.S. PAPER SHOULD SERVE AS PRIMARY VEHICLE FOR DISCUSSION AT FEBRUARY SAFEGUARDS MEETING. EC WILL NOT TRY TO BLOCK DISCUSSION OF ANY AGENDA ITEM IN NEXT FRAMEWORK GROUP MEETING. EC WILL ACCEPT CANADIAN DRAFT SUBSIDY/CVD PAPER FOR DISCUSSION AT NEXT SUBGROUP MEETING. JAPANESE APPOINT NEW MTN AMBASSADOR. END SUMMARY.

2. BRIDGE CLUB LUNCHEON (EC, JAPAN, CANADA, U.S.),
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SUPPLEMENTED BY SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND AND AUSTRALIAN DELS, PROVIDED THE CHANCE FOR A PLURILATERAL TOUR D'HORIZON. THE GENERAL MOOD WAS ONE OF ANTICIPATION AND CURIOSITY ABOUT WHEN AND IN WHAT DIRECTION U.S. MTN POLICY WOULD BE AFFECTED BY THE NEW ADMINISTRATION. SPECIFIC ITEMS OF INTEREST FOLLOW.

3. SAFEGUARDS -- AMBASSADOR GREY (CANADA) EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE PROSPECTS FOR THE UPCOMING MID-FEBRUARY SAFEGUARDS MEETING BECAUSE IN HIS VIEW THE U.S. SAFEGUARDS PAPER DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A SATISFACTORY BASIS UPON WHICH THE NEGOTIATIONS MAY PROCEED IN LIGHT OF THE EXTENT OF THE DISAGREEMENT AND CRITICISM ADVANCED BY OTHER DELEGATIONS AT THE LAST MEETING. THE EC (LUYTEN) AGREED BUT OPPOSED THE OPTION OF CANCELLING THE MEETING, SAYING THAT THE DISCIPLINE OF MEETING DATES IMPOSED DEADLINES WHICH FORCED COMMUNITY DECISIONS. HE ADDED THAT A POSSIBILITY WAS TO HAVE THE CHAIRMAN (GATT SECRETARIAT) PREPARE A PAPER SETTING OUT THE DIFFERING VIEWS EXPRESSED BY PARTICULAR DELEGATIONS ON THE ISSUES INVOLVED. UKAWA (JAPAN) INTERVENED TO EMPHASIZE THAT, WHILE JAPAN DISAGREED WITH THE U.S. PROPOSAL, IT COULD NOT, AT THIS STAGE, AGREE TO A SECRERARIAT PAPER WHICH WOULD INCLUDE, EVEN AS ALTERNATIVES, SOME OF THE ISSUES ON WHICH JAPAN FELT NEGOTIATIONS WERE UNNECESSARY (E.G., SELECTIVITY). IN SUBSEQUENT TELEPHONE FOLLOWUP, GREY CLARIFIED HIS STATEMENT, EXPLAINING THAT HE WAS NOT FORECLOSING THE POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER DISCUSSION CENTERED AROUND THE U.S. PAPER, BUT THAT HE WANTED TO STRESS HIS FEELING THAT FOR NEGOTIATION, AS DISTINCT FROM MERE DISCUSSION, "A NEW PAPER" WAS NEEDED WHICH COMPREHENDED OTHER DELEGATION POSITIONS AND WENT INTO MUCH MORE DETAIL. COMMENT: GREY'S EXPOSITION TOOK BOTH US AND PATTERSON BY SURPRISE, SINCE IT CONTRASTED WITH WHAT WE HAD BEEN HEARING AT THE WORKING LEVEL AND, INDEED, THE DISCUSSION AT THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LAST SAFEGUARDS MEETING (WHICH PATTERSON CHAIRED). WE ARE CHECKING WITH OTHER DELEGATIONS IN MORE DEPTH AND WILL REPORT FURTHER CLARIFICATIONS AND OUR ASSESSMENT.

4. FRAMEWORK IMPROVEMENT GROUP -- LUYTEN MADE IT PLAIN THE EC WOULD NOT TRY TO BLOCK DISCUSSION OF ANY OF THE FIVE AGENDA ITEMS. GREY MADE HOPEFUL NOISES TO THE SAME EFFECT BUT NO DEFINITIVE STATEMENT OF POSITION. UKAWA SAID THE JAPANESE INTENDED TO MAKE AN INITIAL STATEMENT COVERING ALL THE FIVE ELEMENTS OF THE WORK PROGRAM IN A SINGLE PRESENTATION IN ORDER TO AVOID THE RISK OF BEING BLOCKED ON ANY ONE OF THE ELEMENTS. LUYTEN EMPHASIZED THAT THE EC MIGHT NOT SPEAK TO EACH OF THE ITEMS, OR THAT IT MIGHT AWAIT THE COMMENTS OF OTHER DELEGATIONS ON PARTICULAR ITEMS BEFORE INTERVENING TO SAY, FOR EXAMPLE, HOW MUCH IT DISAGREED WITH EARLIER SPEAKERS.

5. SUBSIDY/COUNTERVAIL -- LUYTEN SAID THE EC WAS

PREPARED TO HAVE THE CANADIAN DRAFT PAPER SERVE AS THE FOCUS OF DISCUSSION AT THE NEXT MEETING. HE AND UKAWA OPINED, AND GREY AGREED, THAT MOST OF THE MEETING COULD BE TAKEN UP BY QUESTIONING OF THE CANADIAN DELEGATION AND RECEIVING THE PRELIMINARY REACTIONS OF DELEGATIONS.

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THE EC, JAPAN AND CANADA ALL CONTRASTED THIS SITUATION, WHERE THERE HAD NOT YET BEEN COMMENT ON THE CANADIAN DRAFT, WITH THE SITUATION IN THE SAFEGURDS GROUP WHERE THE U.S. PAPER HAD BEEN SO ROUNDLY CRITICIZED AND COULD NO LONGER SERVE AS THE VEHICLE FOR NEGOTIATION.

6. GENERAL -- GROUP DISCUSSION YIELDED A COMMON UNDERSTANDING THAT THE PROCESS OF BILATERAL EXPLORATION AND DISCUSSION AMONG U.S., EC AND JAPANESE WOULD TAKE PRIORITY IN THE COMING MONTHS AND THAT MULTILATERAL SESSIONS SHOULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO PRODUCE MUCH PROGRESS UNTIL THIS BILATERAL PHASE WAS FARTHER ALONG. AT THE SAME TIME, IT WAS GENERALLY AGREED THAT THE MULTILATERAL

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SESSIONS SO FAR SCHEDULED IN 1977 SHOULD NOT BE CANCELLED
LEST IT APPEAR THAT INTEREST IN THE NEGOTIATIONS HAD
SLACKENED.

7. NEW JAPANESE AMBASSADOR -- ON THE MARGIN OF THE
MEETING UKAWA SAID THAT, CONTRARY TO HIS EARLIER
PREDICTION, SAWAKI HAD IN FACT BEEN NAMED AMBASSADOR TO
REPLACE TSURUMI, UKAWA EXPECTED THAT SAWAKI WOULD RETURN
TO TOKYO FOR AS MUCH AS A MONTH OF CONSULTATIONS AND THAT
HE PROBABLY WOULD NOT BE COMING TO GENEVA UNTIL WELL INTO
MARCH. WALKER

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